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ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SECOND SESSION

OF THE

SELMA ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

MT. GILEAD CHURCH,

LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA,

JULY 26th, 27th and 28th, 1884.

MEETS NEXT YEAR WITH CARLOWVILLE CHURCH, TUESDAY BEFORE FIRST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER.

SELMA, ALA.:
FROM THE PRESS OF THE SELMA PRINTING COMPANY.
1884.

MINUTES.

According to appointment, the SELMA ASSOCIATION met with the Mt. Gilead Church, Lowndes County, Ala., Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July, at 11 o'clock A. M.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. J. M. Fortune. Text, 1st Tim., first clause of 12th verse.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, B. F. Ellis.

Letters were read, and delegates enrolled as follows:

Center Ridge—J. P. Melton, J. C. Yates and Jos. Swink.
Town Creek—J. M. Fortune, L. L. Pierce and E. F. Ellis.
Bethany—E. F. Baber and V. Edwards.
Benton—Not represented.
Ruhamah—Not represented.
Mt. Gilead—R. C. Rives, H. W. Edwards and M. H. Traylor.
Providence—W. B. Crumpton, Lewis Johnson and B. F. Ellis.
Pleasant Hill—B. F. Riley, U. J. Crumpton, T. E. Williams and J. R. Crumpton.
Sister Springs—Daniel Smoke, W. L. Smoke and Jack Day.
Shiloh—Miles Hardy, Jr., and W. E. Clark.
Selma—Jas. L. Bailey and I. R. Eskew.

Bro. B. F. Ellis returned thanks for the honor of his election as Moderator, and asked to be relieved of the office.

Brethren Lewis Johnson and I. R. Eskew were appointed tellers, and an election resulted in the choice of Eld. E. F.

Baber for Moderator, I. R. Eskew, Clerk, and H. W. Edwards, Treasurer.

Adjourned for one hour and a half.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association was called to order at 2 o'clock P. M.

Eld. E. F. Baber, from the committee appointed last year to submit an Order of Business to govern our proceedings, offered the following:

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Read letters from the churches.
3. Organization.
4. Recess.
5. Miscellaneous.
   (*a*) Admit new churches.
   (*b*) Receive and appoint correspondents.
   (*c*) Appoint committees.
6. Reports of standing committees.
7. Reports of special committees.
8. Miscellaneous.

[The report of the Treasurer and of the Finance Committee, and other matter not herein specified, may be presented as miscellaneous business, which shall be in order at any time when there is no subject under consideration.]

Appointed the following committees:

On Documents—W. B. Crumpton, Miles Hardy, Jr., and Jos. Swink.

State of Religion in the Churches—J. M. Fortune, B. F. Ellis and W. R. Smoke.

Religious Exercises—Deacons of this (Mt. Gilead) church and the delegates from Center Ridge.

Finance—J. R. Crumpton, J. P. Melton and Jack Day.

Vacancy on Sunday School Committee—Lewis Johnson and J. F. Ellis.

Time and Place of Next Meeting—A. Edwards, W. E. Clark and Jas. L. Bailey.

On motion, Dr. W. C. Cleveland was requested to preach the Missionary Sermon to-morrow, vice E. J. Forrester, appointee.

On motion, Dr. T. M. Bailey was received as the representative of the State Mission Board; also, Dr. W. C. Cleveland, from the Board of Ministerial Education; Bro. B. F. Riley, from THE ALABAMA BAPTIST; and Bro. L. D. Inskeep, from the Judson Institute and Cahaba Association.

On motion, any member of any church within this Association attending other Associations was authorized to act as a messenger from this body.

W. B. Crumpton, from the committee on Literature, presented his report.

REPORT ON LITERATURE.

To the Selma Baptist Association:

Your committee commend THE ALABAMA BAPTIST to the members of our churches as eminently worthy of their liberal patronage.

The *Foreign Mission Journal*, published by the Board of Foreign Missions at Richmond, Va., at fifty cents per year, should be extensively circulated among us.

The colportage work of our State Mission Board commends itself to us, and should be encouraged. We recommend to the churches to contribute the amount asked for to establish the Robert Carson Permanent Colportage Fund, in memory of that old servant of the Master who did so much, years ago, for the establishment and building up of the churches in our bounds.

We also call attention to the Bible Department of the American Baptist Publication Society. That Society, for three years, has been very generously donating Bibles to our State Mission Board. That the good work of scattering the Word of God may continue, it would be well for our churches to make a small contribution each year for this object.

For use in our Sunday Schools, the American Baptist Publication Society furnishes the cheapest and best graded Lesson Helps.

W. B. CRUMPTON, Chm'n.

During the discussion of the report on Literature, Bro. Bailey spoke in behalf of Colportage Work, and raised $81.00 toward a fund to be called "The Robert Carson Permanent Colportage Fund," as follows:

T. M. Bailey	$ 5 00	Mrs. M. J. Traylor	$ 5 00
W. B. Crumpton	3 00	W. E. Clarke	2 00
Alf. Edwards	5 00	E. F. Baber	5 00
J. W. Robertson	5 00	I. R. Eskew	10 00
B. F. Ellis	5 00	Mrs. Hendricks Hardy	1 00
R. B. Hardy	5 00	Mrs. E. Whatley	1 00
Jos. Swink	3 00	Lewis Pierce	5 00
D. B. Edwards	5 00	Miss Margaret Hardy	2 00
J. A. May	5 00	J. L. Bailey	2 00
H. W. Hardy	5 00		
T. A. Hardy	2 00	Total	$81 00

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The conflict between the temperance workers and the friends of the liquor traffic continues with increasing zeal in both parties. We are in a conflict from which there can be no retreat. Everything that we hold dear is at stake. Society, financial prosperity, morality, our homes, and men's immortal souls, are at stake. Statistics show that four-fifths of the crimes committed in this country are traceable to the use of intoxicating liquors, and that nearly one-half of the patients in the insane hospitals have come to insanity from the use of intoxicating liquors. The people of the United States pay annually for bread, five

hundred millions dollars; for drink, nine hundred millions dollars. For all cotton and woollen goods, they pay two hundred and forty millions dollars; for drink, nine hundred millions dollars. They pay for boots and shoes, one hundred and ninety-six millions dollars; for drink, nine hundred millions dollars. They pay ten times as much for drink as for public instruction. All the sawed lumber in Alabama does not amount to one-fourth, in value, of the whisky we drink. There are more than 200,000 wholesale and retail liquor dealers in this country. Against this force for evil there are about 87,717 ministers and only 115,610 churches. The entire contributions of all denominations, including pastors' salaries, in 1882, were $50,000,000. Internal revenue taxes alone, collected on liquor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1883, were $91,269,371. The people of the United States contribute to religious causes, all told, $50,000,000; for drink, $900,000,000.

This monster evil trails its vicious course alongside of courts of justice, halls of legislation, schools, colleges, universities, charitable institutions and churches, and bids for the youth, the manhood, the womanhood, the intelligence and the souls of our people.

Against this demon, so strongly entrenched and doing its work, we are fighting, with much to encourage us. The temperance cause is slowly but surely growing stronger every day. So far as we can learn, every State in the Union has strong and growing organized forces at work, and the prohibition tide is rising higher every day. All our legislative bodies that have been in session the past year have had under serious consideration measures looking to the regulation or prohibition of the liquor traffic. Religious denominations, in their great assemblies, have taken decided action against the liquor traffic.

Our own Baptist State Convention, just closed, was the most enthusiastic on the temperance question, ever held. Women's Temperance Unions are growing in strength and favor. Nor is this uprising against the traffic in intoxicating drinks confined to this country. At a recent licensing session in South London, out of sixty new applications, only one was granted. In Russia the liquor traffic is now placed under the most stringent regulations, and fifty-eight distilleries have, of late, been closed.

The question that presses itself home to our hearts and minds, is, What are we going to do?

Your committee would suggest the following recommendations:

1. That our churches promptly exclude all drunkards and liquor venders who can not be reclaimed from their ruinous course.

2. That we vote for no man, to any office, who drinks or favors the liquor traffic.

3. That we labor to procure county and state prohibition, with constitutional prohibition as an end.

4. In the meantime that we do all we can to punish the violation of existing laws.

J. M. FORTUNE, Chm'n.

After speeches by W. B. Crumpton, L. D. Inskeep, W. C. Cleveland and J. M. Fortune, the report was adopted.

On motion, W. C. Cleveland was requested to present the plans and purposes of the Board of Ministerial Education, which he did, and promptly secured pledges, as follows:

Selma	$110 00	Pleasant Hill	$ 10 00
Providence	55 00	Mt. Gilead	5 00
Bethany	5 00	Sister Springs	5 00
Center Ridge	10 00	M. Hardy, Jr.	5 00
Shiloh	10 00		
Town Creek	10 00	Total	$225 00

On motion of W. B. Crumpton, the Chair appointed W. B. Crumpton, J. W. Stillwell and J. M. Fortune a Committee on Apportionment.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported that, for the present session, W. C. Cleveland preach the Missionary Sermon, and B. F. Riley the sermon Sunday afternoon. For the Introductory Sermon next year, W. B. Crumpton; Missionary Sermon, J. M. Frost.

The Committee on Time and Place recommend that our next meeting be held on Tuesday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1885, with the Center Ridge Church. Laid on the table until Monday.

Adjourned until 9 A. M. Monday.

SUNDAY.

Preaching at 11 A. M. by Dr. W. C. Cleveland, from Luke 16: 8. Preaching at 2 P. M. by B. F. Riley, from Psalm 37:37.

MONDAY.

Met in devotion, led by L. D. Inskeep.

The Association was called to order at 10 o'clock.

The Minutes were read, corrected, and adopted.

On motion, only the names of delegates in attendance were enrolled.

On motion, Col. Murfee was received as representative from Howard College.

Elder W. B. Crumpton again presented the Report on Literature, which, on motion, was adopted as read.

The Report on Time and Place was called.

After remarks by W. C. Cleveland, W. B. Crumpton, and T. M. Bailey, a motion was carried to amend it by inserting Tuesday before the first Sunday in September, 1885, and the report was adopted.

Bro. Lewis Johnson, from the Committee on Sunday Schools, presented the following report, which, after remarks by Dr. T. M. Bailey, Col. J. T. Murfee, Dr. W. C. Cleveland, and L. D. Inskeep, was adopted:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Upon examination of the letters from the churches, we find no Sunday School reported from two of the churches. We deem it unnecessary to try to prove to the people of this Association the good to be derived from Sunday Schools, or their importance to every church and community. The only question is the best and most successful way to carry on a Sunday School. We would urge every church represented here to greater efforts in the Sunday School work until they have a good school attended by the whole church, as well as the whole community in which they are situated.

We recommend, to assist in the Sunday School work, the use of the Sunday School literature published by the American Baptist Publication Society, at Philadelphia; as well, also, as that published by the Southern Baptist Convention, at Macon, Ga., and especially do we recommend the "Baptist Prize Catechism," which can be furnished by the Secretary of the State Mission Board, at Marion.

We also recommend that a greater degree of benevolence be taught in our Sunday School work; and, finally, we suggest that the clerks in their associational letters report their Sunday School statistics, so that we may provoke each other to good works. LEWIS JOHNSON, Chm'n.

Bro. B.F. Riley, from the Committee on Missions, submitted the following:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Missions are the foundation principles of Christianity. They are the divinely appointed means of communicating the message of salvation to the nations of the earth. Telling the Gospel to others is the genius of Christianity. To concentrate the power of human agency in the work of giving the Gospel to the world, the adherents of Christianity, under the sanction of the Holy Spirit, were formed into bodies called churches. Along the ages the churches of Jesus Christ have been perpetuated and increased by the extension of the principles of Christianity among the peoples of the earth.

The great commission furnishes the marching orders to the people of God, to continue the conquests of the Gospel until the kingdoms of the earth shall become the trophies of Heaven.

The mechanical methods for securing co-operation in the transmission of the glad tidings of great joy, are left to the churches. In order to render these means most efficient, certain organizations have been formed as the most convenient channels to the accomplishment of the work in hand. So far as we are concerned, we stand related to those great organizations known as the State, Home, and Foreign Boards. Of these, the State Board has under its direction the work of evangelization in Alabama. For ten successive years has this work been zealously prosecuted with the most encouraging results. Under the judicious management of this Board, located in Selma, sufficient modifications have been given the work from time to time, as the circumstances of the case have

demanded. As a result of last year's work, we have the following aggregate statement:

Men employed	70
Churches organized	21
Sunday Schools organized	60
Members added to churches through labors of missionaries.	1,405

In addition to this there have been collected for the State Board more than $9,000, and for all purposes, more than $30,000. The success of the State Mission Board in the past is an earnest of grander achievements in the future.

The Home Mission Board, located at Atlanta, has under its supervision the work of supplying the destitution throughout the South when it can not be met by the State Boards. It is also charged with the work of evangelization among the Indians of the Far West. The last annual report of this Board shows the following results: There have been employed during the year, 199 missionaries laboring in twelve States and Territories; there have been organized 338 churches and stations. and there have been secured to the churches through the labors of these missionaries, by letter and baptism, 4 190 members, with more than $60,000 collected.

The Foreign Mission Board, located at Richmond, Va., is charged with the work of carrying the Gospel into distant lands. Its missionaries are laboring in Brazil, Mexico, Italy, China, and Africa. The collections reported amount to nearly $80,000. The results of the operations of foreign missionaries are most gratifying. As commercial intercourse between nations the most remote becomes more intimate as the years come and go, the responsibility of Christianity is increased to supply every nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

B. F. Riley, Chm'n.

After remarks by W. B. Crumpton, T. M. Bailey, W. C. Cleveland and J. M. Fortune, the report was adopted.

Bro. Crumpton submitted a report on Apportionment, which, after amendment, was adopted. W. B. Crumpton, J. W. Stillwell, and J. M. Fortune.

Bro. J. M. Fortune offered his Report on the State of Religion in the Churches, which was discussed by J. M. Fortune and W. B. Crumpton.

After singing "All hail the power of Jesus' name," adjourned until 2 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association deferred action on the Report on the State of Religion in the Churches, to give opportunity for the Report of the Finance Committee, which was offered by Bro. J. R. Crumpton, and received.

On motion, funds for Ministerial Education were turned over to Dr. W. C. Cleveland.

On motion, the Missionary Collection was turned over to Dr. T. M. Bailey, to be divided equally between the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies.

The Report on the State of Religion in the Churches was taken up and adopted, as read.

REPORT ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

Your committee report that, while a few of our churches have made liberal contributions to the Master's cause, the home interests of most of them are sadly neglected. Two are not represented in this Association at all. Of those represented, only seven report Sunday Schools connected with the churches; only three report prayer-meetings; five report Ladies' Benevolent Societies; and one, a Church Missionary Society. The statistics show a decrease in the membership of our churches of five members. This showing is by no means encouraging. If we are not progressing in the Christian life, we are retrograding; if we are not gathering into the kingdom of God material for his spiritual building, we are scattering abroad. Then the foregoing state of things would indicate retrogression and spiritual declension. In view of these sad facts, your committee would recommend,

1. That the members of the churches of this Association be urged to meet at some convenient point on Friday before the fifth Sunday in August, prox., for earnest prayer and counsel, with the view of provoking one another to love and good works.

2. That a committee of three be appointed by this body to fix the place of said meeting and arrange an order of exercises.

3. That this committee be requested by this Association to encourage and arrange for a succession of similar meetings at such times and places as may be deemed best adapted to accomplish the end had in view, viz: the development of the spiritual power and efficiency of our churches in accomplishing their great mission, which is to lead wandering sinners back to God.

Respectfully submitted, J. M. FORTUNE, Chm'n.

On motion, a committee on Education was authorized, and the Association listened to accounts of the Judson Institute and Howard College, by Prof. L. D. Inskeep and Dr. J. T. Murfee, respectively.

Bro. J. M. Fortune, from the Committee on Meetings, submitted the following, which was adopted:

REPORT ON MEETINGS.

Your committee to fix the time and place of holding a meeting beginning Friday before the fifth Sunday in August prox., for considering the best means for developing the spiritual power of our churches, report, that we have selected Town Creek as the place; time, indicated above.

Respectfully submitted, J. M. FORTUNE, Chm'n.

Bro. W. B. Crumpton, from the Committee on Documents, reported nothing found and nothing requiring attention.

Bro. E. F. Baber was authorized to have letters furnished from certain churches to the Clerk for insertion in the tables of the session.

The Chair appointed the following standing committees, to report next year:

On Missions—B. F. Ellis, James Bryant and Miles Hardy, Jr.
Sunday Schools—J. W. Stillwell, P. W. Johnson and J. W. Robinson.
Temperance—J. R. Crumpton, J. L. Bailey and W. E. Clarke.
Literature—J. M. Frost, Jos. Swink, J. F. Ellis and W. L. Smoke.

Bro. B. F. Ellis offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are hereby tendered to this church and community for the liberal hospitality extended during our session.

The "Robert Carson Permanent Colportage Fund" was extended to $100.00 by the following donations:

Pleasant Hill Church	$5 00	Y. C. Yates	$2 00
W. B. Crumpton	2 00	J. P. Melton	2 00
Sister Springs	2 00	E. F. Baber	2 00

On motion of Bro. J. M. Fortune, a vote of thanks was extended to the Clerk, I. R. Eskew, for services rendered during the session.

On motion, adjourned to Tuesday before the first Sunday in September, 1885.

Prayer by Eld. E. F. Baber.

Sang "Sweet Bye-and-Bye."

Prayer by Dr. W. C. Cleveland.

E. F. BABER, *Moderator.*

I. R. ESKEW, *Clerk.*

FINANCE REPORT.

CHURCHES.	Pastors' Salary.	Church Expenses.	Church Fund.	Endowment Fund.	Ladies' Mis'y Soc.	Min. Education.	Poor.	Minutes.	Sunday School Expenses.	Sunday School Collections.	Missions.	Foreign Journal.	TOTAL.
Center Ridge.	$		$	$	1	$11 20	$	$ 2 50	$	$	$ 15 75	$	$ 29 45
*Bethany	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.. ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Benton.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. ..	.....	.....	.....
Mt. Gilead...	.....	.....	.. ..	.....	..	.....	.....	1 50	.....	.....	36 80	.....	38 70
Providence. ..	300 00	5 00	.....	.....	1	75 00	.....	2 00	10 00	10 00	75 00	.....	512 00
Pleasant Hill.	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1 00	.....	2 00	.....	.....	34 50	.....	37 50
Ruhamah	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sister Springs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	.. ..	.....	2 00	.....	.....	1 00	.....	3 00
Selma.....	‡1800 00	749 50	.....	.....	..	152 00	.....	3 00	.....	.....	442 67	.....	3147 17
Shiloh.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	17 25	.....	2 10	.....	.....	25	.....	19 60
Town Creek..	.....	.....	12 60	6 00	1	21 55	12 30	2 00	.....	.....	45 40	3 00	102 85

*Not reported.
‡And home.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	CLERK'S POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	Membership last Reported.	Rec. by Baptism.	Rec'ved by Letter	Deceased.	Excluded.	Dis. by Letter.	Total No. Memb's	No. S. S. Scholars	No. S. S. Teach'rs	No. Relig's Papers	No.S.S.Pap'rs tak'
Center Ridge...	G. W. Curry...	J. C. Yates.....	Minter..... ..	Dallas....	64	1	1	..	..	3	63	....	..	..	..
*Bethany.....	.. ..	... .	.....	.....	....	..	..	..	..	..	....	....	..	..	..
*Benton.....	....	.....	.....	.....	....	..	..	..	..	..	....	....	..	.	..
Mt. Gilead.....	E. F. Baber....	R. C. Rives....	Benton.....	Lowndes .	14	3	..	..	..	..	17	....	..	..	..
Providence.	W. B. Crumpton	Lewis Johnson.	....	.....	91	..	..	..	1	6	84	45	7	20	50
Pleasant Hill...	B. F. Riley.....	J. R. Crumpton	Pleasant Hill.	Dallas....	49	..	2	..	..	5	46	55	5	..	..
Ruhamah.....	E. F. Baber ...	.....	....	....	14	..	2	1	..	..	15	....	..	..	..
Sister Springs ..	E. F. Baber....	W. L. Smoke...	Benton.....	Lowndes .	17	..	..	..	..	..	17	....	..	..	..
Selma..... ...	J. M. Frost.....	A. J. Goodwin..	Selma...	Dallas....	244	..	14	1	..	10	247	100	17	..	..
Shiloh.....	E. F. Baber....	W. E. Clarke...	Selma.....	Dallas....	47	1	5	1	..	2	50	....	3	..	..
Town Creek....	J. M. Fortune..	T. K. Whitman	Benton.....	Lowndes..	57	..	..	1	..	..	56	25	5	..	..

*Not represented.

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST,

SELMA, ALABAMA.

THERE is no more important interest fostered by the Baptists of Alabama than their Denominational Paper, THE ALABAMA BAPTIST. It is earnestly hoped that every Baptist in the State will not only take the paper himself, but do all he can to induce others to take it.

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